

SPOKE

Conestoga College, Monday, September 11, 1989

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Former Cambridge student still fights campus merger

By John Freitas

Kevin Schut, former president of Cambridge campus's leisure time committee and current student at Doon campus, will continue to fight a proposed Cambridge-Doon campus consolidation.

Schut, an Ontario Basic Skills (OBS) graduate, resigned from the presidency last month after completing the OBS program. Schut's enrolment in the program followed a five year absence from formal schooling.

"I went into OBS with absolutely no idea of what I wanted to get into," said Schut. Prior to returning to school, Schut was the proprietor of Garret Systems Installations, a local firm which installed office

systems. But Schut discovered in the early days of his venture that he lacked a business instinct and after only six months, he abandoned the pursuit.

An aptitude test taken while he was in the OBS program indicated he was suited for the medical field. Subsequent occupational research undertaken independently by Schut at the Cambridge and Kitchener ambulance hospital helped him finalize his decision. "That really helped me to make my decision," said Schut. "You know what you are getting yourself into and you learn it from an insider's point of view."

Consequently, Schut will resume his studies in September at Doon campus where he is enroled in a



Kevin Schut

36-week ambulance and emergency care program.

The OBS program is designed to

assist individuals in exploring and preparing for various job and career opportunities. Schut endorses the program fervently and said he is more confident and out-going since completing the program.

"If I could help anybody in any way to get into a program like that (OBS), I wouldn't think twice about it," said Schut.

Schut had scarcely begun OBS when he was recruited as the public relations officer for the leisure time committee by its president, Wally Piper.

The leisure time committee's function is similar to those of other college student associations which addresses and responds to student concerns.

A recent announcement by col-

lege president John Tibbits presenting tentative plans for a Cambridge-Doon campus consolidation has many of the Cambridge students upset. The leisure time committee is fighting the consolidation and is preparing to circulate petitions throughout the community hoping to create greater public support for a Cambridge campus.

Schut fights alongside aldermen Bill Struck and Rick Cowsill in the newly formed Keep Conestoga College in Cambridge committee.

Schut, eagerly anticipating the commencement of his studies, recalls the words of an OBS instructor - "The only place you'll find success before work is in the dictionary."

"Experience Conestoga" answers new students' questions

By Rick Webster

An orientation Aug. 31, dubbed 'Experience Conestoga', gave the 400 first-year diploma program students a chance to see the campus and have their questions answered, according to the co-ordinator of Doon student services, Joan Magazine.

The morning-long itinerary, co-ordinated by student services, featured welcoming introductions from registrar Betty Martin, school principal Tony Martinek, Doon Student Association (DSA) president John Lassel and other speakers.

Martin, the newly appointed registrar, said the orientation is important for first-year students.

"It (orientation) makes the students aware of what they have to do once they get here. It gives them

a chance to see the campus. It also gives us (registrar's office) an opportunity to say what we need from the students. The orientation takes some of the mystery out of registration, if the students can talk to someone," said Martin.

John Lassel, the DSA president, said orientation is a great way to present information about the DSA to new students.

"It is a great way to get the students interested in DSA. Besides, it is their government," said Lassel.

Lassel also said it is up to students to take full advantage of services offered by DSA, like pubs, trips and other events, because they are paying for it as part of their athletic fee.

The DSA is also looking for people to fill pub staff positions and do volunteer work, said Lassel.

sel.

As the students entered the recreation centre complex, they were met by peer helpers and registered.

Following registration, they were escorted to the gymnasium where they were greeted by representatives from recreation services, peer services, the DSA, placement services and the registrar's office.

Dan Young, supervisor of athletics and campus recreation, made students feel comfortable by making his presentation from the floor of the gymnasium instead of the platform.

While on the floor, with microphone in-hand, he asked students to stand and introduce themselves to people around them. After many handshakes and hellos, Young asked every one to be

seated.

He then proceeded to choose people to stand and tell the entire gymnasium the names of the people they had just met.

Young told students this would help them meet people at the college in the next few weeks.

After introductions at the recreation centre, students were divided into groups according to their

programs and taken on tours of the campus by peer helpers.

Students were shown the vitals of the college, the book store, Learning Resource Centre, cafeteria and the area of the school where they will have their classes.

Following the tours, students were shown a video about the college and given a chance to ask questions.

Tailor-made electives coming

By Rick Webster

Changes are going to be made to the college's system of general education electives, according to dean of applied arts Sharon Kalbfleisch.

On Sept. 6, Conestoga president John Tibbits reviewed a proposal, drafted by the deans, concerning the electives.

In the proposal, the deans took into account the results of a student survey on electives taken in the spring, said Kalbfleisch.

Students want the chance to participate in the initiation of new courses, said Kalbfleisch.

Also taken into account were the opinions voiced at the academic debates held last fall and papers submitted by some of the advisory committees.

Pending the approval of Tibbits, the proposal will be reviewed by the rest of the faculty and student groups and hopefully imple-



mented next September, said Kalbfleisch.

"If the model goes through, there will have to be new courses offered," said Kalbfleisch.

The changes will enable students to broaden their horizon, she said.

According to Kalbfleisch, the general education electives should be tailor-made for each program.

Detweiler in the dark

By Andrea Buckley

Staff and students at the Detweiler Centre were left in the dark Tuesday Sept. 5 when a defective transformer broke down causing a power failure.

The centre's co-ordinator, George Woods, said the transformer malfunctioned Monday, Sept. 4 at about 3 p.m. and "virtually killed all the lighting in the centre."

Registration for new students was held at the recreation centre and there was enough sunlight in the Detweiler building to hand out textbooks and perform administrative duties.

Since there is no emergency lighting system in the building, staff members relied on penlight flashlights while a new transformer was being installed.



Photo by Alan Elliott/Spoke

Laying pipe

Steve Martin and Trevor Wilson (facing camera) of Gemor Electric Inc., St. Jacobs, lay pipe for cable from the transformer behind the recreation centre to the Detweiler Centre.



Photo by Alan Elliott/Spoke

Lorraine Garner proudly shows portrait of her daughter.

College switches to different security-guard company

By Michael-Allan Marion

Conestoga College administration has changed security companies by hiring Burns International Security Services Ltd. to staff its campus security contract for the next two years.

Burns took over the contract on July 28 from Canadian Protection Services Ltd. after the college announced that the new company had delivered the best tender.

Bob Gilberds, the college's security supervisor, said Burns won the contract because it had the lowest bid and made a commitment to the college to pay better wages to its staff.

"It's the way it happens all the time," he said. "Burns came in below other companies in the bidding, so all the staff changed hands. They'll be in as long as they keep making the best bid."

Gilberds said the college administration wanted the company awarded the contract to

pay higher wages to its staff because it was concerned about high staff turnover. He said the college felt paying higher wages would convince employees to stay at the job longer and know the campus better.

"I don't know many details, but the college said the new staff would be getting a bit more per hour," said Gilberds.

"Staff turnover was not a problem with the last company," he said, adding that the college was satisfied that Canadian Protection Services, which had held the contract for three years, had fulfilled its obligations and had no complaints about its service.

"It's a cut-throat business. Often these companies will bid at a loss just to beat a competitor. Burns just managed to undercut Canadian Protection Services this time but maybe the reverse will happen the next time the contract comes up for bidding," he said.

SPOKE classified ads are coming soon!

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They really work!

Daughter an air force pilot, Lorraine Garner pleased

By Alan Elliott

A coupon for a free flying lesson at the Waterloo-Wellington airport 10 years ago gave Michelle (Micky) Garner "the bug." Now, at 31, her workplace is the wild, blue yonder, an air force captain of a C-130 cargo plane.

Her mother, Lorraine Garner, who works in student services at the Waterloo campus, said Micky tried other jobs before joining the Canadian Armed Forces in 1980: assisting a veterinarian and delivering chiropractic supplies for her father.

She applied for a pilot position in the air force in 1980. She and a classmate were the sixth and seventh females ever to graduate from the force's pilot course.

"It was, quote, unquote, 'a pilot project,' when they let women take on jobs such as navigators and pilots," Garner said. "I don't think people realize the opportunity is there for women."

Micky now flies a C-130 Hercules cargo plane. When she was in Winnipeg several years ago, she and her crew were known as the elephant squadron, with the credo, "We carry the load."

As a captain and air commander, Micky pilots the plane, is in charge of the crew (mostly men) and trains new pilots. One recent task was returning groups of natives to their homes in Manitoba after

July's forest-fire evacuation.

At other times, she flies rescue missions searching for downed aircraft in Canada's northern wilderness.

The C-130, about half the size of a 707 jet, has a wing span of 130 feet, a length of 98 feet and can take off with a maximum gross weight of 155,000 pounds.

Micky visits Kitchener on rare opportunities — usually around Christmas, and the last time, in July.

"I'd love to have her talk (at the college) — particularly to young women," her mother said, and added that her daughter has also expressed an interest in such a forum, but the times she visits, it seems, always fall when students are on vacation. Very few women apply for the pilot's course.

Micky may be touching down at the Waterloo-Guelph Regional Airport (as it is now called) sometime in the next month, but only for an hour or so. She will be training students in landing technique.

Garner acknowledges the danger in her daughter's occupation, but calls it a "calculated risk."

"There's a lot more risk in this than if she were in an office."

"Sure there's some danger. There's been some Herc crashes — there's been people killed." And, landing in political hotspots like Damascus or Israel, "anything can happen."

But Garner said air force equip-

ment is better serviced than commercial planes and, she adds, she has confidence in her daughter's abilities — like a sharp reactions and manual dexterity.

"You should see her play video games — she'd just knock your socks off."

Garner said men are beginning to accept the idea of female pilots in the forces, even though there are only about 18 women pilots. When the Kitchener-Waterloo Record published an article about her in July, Garner said Micky's brother, who works at Uniroyal Goodrich Canada Inc. in Kitchener, said the men he works with thought she had made a terrific career choice.

She's met reactions of disbelief upon landing in Arabian countries.

"They don't even let women drive cars," Garner said, "and here she comes in driving a plane."

When she does meet chauvinistic barriers, her safety net is her sense of humor.

"She's the sort of person who takes her job seriously but doesn't take herself seriously."

Garner told about her daughter meeting Raul Castro, Cuba's defence minister and brother to Fidel, at a party in Cuba. Castro said a woman should not be an air force pilot.

Micky didn't argue, her mother said.

"She's much too diplomatic to do that."

New personnel VP settling into job

By Andy Schoenhofer

John MacKenzie, the new human resources vice president as of July 31, wants to take time to learn his job before he sets specific goals for himself.

"I'll try to be brilliant at being new for the next while," he said in an interview August 10.

MacKenzie is the permanent replacement for John Podmore who left Conestoga June 29 to work for the Ministry of Colleges and Universities for at least one year. According to MacKenzie, Podmore will return to Conestoga but not as vice president of human resources.

MacKenzie, 46, felt it was time for a career change and left his previous job in human resources at Northern Telecom to work here.

Correction

A story in Spoke's September 5 issue incorrectly identified Sue Johnstone as the Nursing co-ordinator. She is actually a faculty member.

Spoke regrets the error.

Correction

Those who purchased orientation kits can no longer use the Stages Manic Monday tickets. However they can be redeemed for a Tuesday night ticket.



John MacKenzie

He worked there for nine years, six of which were spent organizing the research and development part of the company, with the last three in human resources.

MacKenzie finds more similarities than differences when comparing college to business.

"The college really is a business," he said. "The number of students we can attract and then retain affects our funding, and the number of students that get good jobs affects the number of students that apply."

"But it's not as high-pressure as manufacturing because of the long time-frame involved," he added.

He feels some of the functions of human resources are not "exciting" unless they are viewed with the ultimate goal of education in mind.

"Why are we developing a faculty performance appraisal system?" he asked rhetorically. "Because we believe that it is really important that the college has excellent quality of teaching. And we believe that because the thing the college is focused on is student success: getting the qualifications for a successful career."

MacKenzie said his goal is to ensure the college doesn't lose its focus — the students — and his job is "to provide the type of people that will help the college to produce good graduates."

It's his personal principle that "you can't change an organization without having a lot of respect for its history." Throughout August, MacKenzie will be developing his agenda for any changes he feels necessary to the system.

He was born in Montreal and followed his father — in international construction for various Canadian companies — around the world. Most memorable were the five years the family spent in West Pakistan when he was a teenager.

MacKenzie has two sons, 16 and 18, and lives in Mississauga with his wife. He will live there until his younger son is out of high school and then move to this area.

MacKenzie has a bachelor of science degree in agricultural biochemistry from McGill University and a master's degree in education from the University of Ottawa.

Engineer urges immigrants to work for credentials

By Alan Elliott

When Stelian George-Cosh immigrated to Canada eight years ago, he found work as a professional engineer, his occupation in Romania, but he didn't have his Canadian credentials.

He told a group of about 15 students from Project Mainstream — the Waterloo campus's innovative English as a second language (ESL) program — the Canadian equivalent of foreign diplomas, certificates and degrees can be obtained by following the proper channels.

"You can get it if you want, but you fight hard for it," George-Cosh said.

Project Mainstream, a 35-week course, was designed to work in tandem with the Canada Employment Centre to direct immigrants into the local labor force. Many students attending George-Cosh's seminar hold diplomas or are licensed in a trade.

George-Cosh said the system is

fair because there has been a problem of people seeking professional technicians' jobs using forged documents.

He distributed literature concerning the translation of diplomas and certificates into English and about a service in Toronto that judges the documents and grants the Canadian equivalent. Documents must be translated into English before submission to the service.

After he found work as an engineer, George-Cosh, currently a teaching master in the mechanical engineering program at the Doon campus, sought acquisition of a Canadian diploma. He wrote to Romania for documentation that would back his claim, but received no answer.

An appeal to the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario took three years, but the eventual favorable decision, George-Cosh said, has proven invaluable. With Canadian certification, he has a greater degree of job mobility and the insurance of a professional's

salary.

George-Cosh also explained the structure of Canada's educational system compared to schooling in Europe, and the significance of degrees, diplomas and certificates.

In stressing the necessity of obtaining equivalent documentation after immigration, he said starting from scratch to earn a degree or diploma in Canada would be a waste of potentially money-earning time.

While George-Cosh spoke to students interested in mechanical trades, his wife, Olga, discussed the preparation of income tax returns and various other topics with the balance of the program's 64 students.

The visit by George-Cosh and Olga was one of a continuing series of seminars for the students of Project Mainstream, which focuses on the Canadian culturalization of the student as well

as the need to acquire English.

He emphasized the importance of skill in English as a prerequisite for any profession in English Canada. Daily monetary needs, he said, often force the immigrant to give up studies for menial labor. He cautioned the students to avoid that route.

"What do you want?" he asked rhetorically, "Would you like a piece of bread now, or would you like a cake later?"



Photo by Alan Elliott/Spoke

Stelian George-Cosh conducts a session of Project Mainstream at the Waterloo campus

Misleading facts discourage potential technology students

By Alan Elliott

Many post-secondary students are directed into business or arts programs rather than studies leading to high-paying technical jobs by misinformed high-school counsellors and parents, according to a professional engineer.

Stelian George-Cosh, who teaches at Doon, said the average salaries of technicians and technologists compare favorably with those of white-collar workers. But "people think that being an engineer or a technician is dirty."

Many people, he said, are confused about the word "engineer." It could refer to a railway engineer or to someone designing a nuclear power plant.

The mechanical engineering teaching master also said that it takes the technology grad a shorter time to climb the pay scale.

George-Cosh said he believes one reason high-school graduates don't choose technology is that their career counsellors seldom have technical backgrounds.

"They will tell the kids what they know — and they don't know much about technology in general."

Even many high-school technology teachers, who sometimes take seminars at the college, don't know what a mechanical engineer is, George-Cosh has found. Without that knowledge, they can't properly direct their technology students.

He has had a role in promoting the college's engineering programs at local high schools but said, "It's hard to convince them when you talk to them for an hour. The job is supposed to be done by the counsellors and the parents."

Parents, George-Cosh said, in

wanting the best for their children, encourage them toward the arts or business, ignoring technology, hoping they will attain a white-collar position.

He said with the general trend of wanting good pay with as little investment as possible in formal education, "it's very puzzling" that so little is known about salaries in mechanical engineering.

A graduate of the college's two-year mechanical engineering technician program could earn an average salary of \$35,000; a graduate of the three-year mechanical engineering technology program would be in the \$42,000 range and could earn up to about \$70,000.

"Articles in the paper and in technology magazines are emphasizing the great demand for skilled and engineering jobs," George-Cosh said.

"One reason for increasing the immigration quota in Canada is to gain engineering personnel from abroad." He said other countries, Japan for example, place more emphasis on technological training.

Colleges, according to George-Cosh, have thus far not addressed the root of the problem — people's attitudes to a career in technology. He said a well-planned campaign is needed to make people more aware of the need for skills in that area.

"It has to do with the future of industry in Canada."

Many high school students with an aptitude for technology, he said, find a job in a machine shop and then, realizing they have more potential than as an operator, enrol in a college program.

"But why take the hard route?" George-Cosh said, when a short cut is available through college training.

Co-ordinator fears poor image threatens technology programs

By Julie Lawrence

Bob Baker, mechanical engineering co-ordinator, said he doesn't think technology's slow enrolment is a college marketing problem. According to Baker, the problem lies in the image society has created about technology.

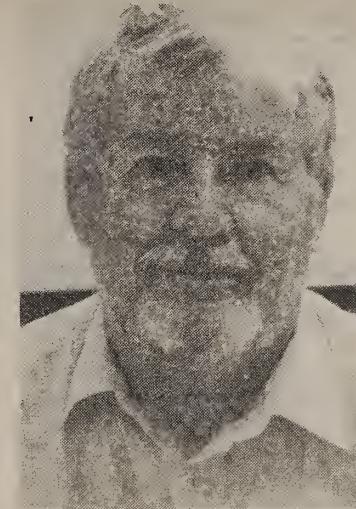
"People tend to shy away from jobs that might get their hands dirty," but not all technology jobs get the worker's hands dirty, said Baker. The field of technology is no different than any other. There are those technicians that get their hands dirty and there are those that don't. The choice is up to the technicians.

"I guess people don't want to get jobs that would pay a lot of money," said Baker, adding he expects his son, a graduate from the mechanical engineering program at Conestoga, will exceed what Baker is making as a teacher within the next year or two. His son works as a mechanical engineer for a Mississauga based company.

The average person graduating from the mechanical engineering program, according to Baker, will earn about \$24-25,000 but that is expected to double within the first three to five years if the graduate remains at the same job.

Baker said when people hear the word "engineer," they think of a person who operates a train. They don't realize that it took a construction engineer to help build their house or a mechanical and electronic engineer to design their new car or a construction engineer to help build the roads and bridges for their cars to drive across.

"Society portrays technology as being more of a distraction rather



Bob Baker

than a challenge. Engineers have the ability to solve some of the world's problems," but people envision the technicians as being the problem.

For the past two to four years, Conestoga has tried to form a marketing strategy that would portray, to potential students, the benefits of being a part of the technology field by relating things around them to the technology advancements, such as the guitars they use for their music and the computers that have made people more productive.

Baker said there isn't really a problem getting first-year students — though the mechanical engineering technician and electronic engineering technician program have been receiving some problems in that area also. It is retaining the students for the second and final years.

It would seem, he added, that students who did not have strong

math and science skills in high school found it hard to keep up with the work load. Baker expects about 24 hours per week class time from the mechanical students plus equal homework allowance time.

Last year, the mechanical engineering technology program had a full capacity of students in first-year. The college had about 75 per cent returning for the second year. The program had only about half of its original first-year starting class graduate from their third year.

He said the reason about 25 of the students did not graduate over the past three to four years was because they did not complete their final third-year project.

The final third-year project, which is part of most technology program's curriculum, is done primarily on an individual basis. But because of the high percentage of people not being able to complete it on their own there, are plans in the works, said Baker, to change the format.

Some night courses and upgrading courses are being created so the students do not fall behind in their studies.

Baker said the mechanical engineering math, which is "just a different way of doing what the students have already been doing in high school math," did prove difficult to the 1988 first-year students. Because this course is a pre-requisite for two or three other courses in second year, a summer course was offered to raise the student's marks. "The college can't solve technology's low enrolment problem by throwing a switch. It takes time," he said.

OPINION

SPOKE

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Turning over new leaf reveals same old thing

By Alan Elliott

A week into the school year, with everyone's summertime instincts fading along with the tan line, any student worth the paper his or her registration is written on gets down and gets serious.

The best thing about starting is the clean slate that comes with it — the one every student is determined to keep uncluttered from September on. No letting those assignments multiply, like cockroaches or second graders. Knocking them off the minute they're assigned becomes an 11th commandment.

Limbering up those muscles in our heads and doing a few pencil pushups feels really good, and the better a person feels about getting something done, the easier it is for those dreams of summer to come wafting back on a soft Indian summer breeze. The easier to say, "Well, I've gotten a little bit accomplished. Maybe I deserve to relax for a change — without actually goofing off, of course."

And maybe a beer wouldn't hurt, or a scotch straight up, or even one of those sissy drinks with an umbrella on top. What the hell, the assignment's not due until next week.

Famous last words.

Before you know it you're like somebody in a beer commercial — you know, those glitzy TV ones that manage to avoid a sexist label by flashing brawn as well as bosoms, people having an uproarious time at the cottage (though never shown actually taking a drink).

You become a party hound. You're drowning in assignments. You party, just to forget.

Then the night comes when you return home to that unfinished essay and the pile of unopened overdue library books staring at you like a month's worth of dirty dishes. Your essay is due in the morning — 8:30 in the morning.

But relax. This isn't reality at all — this is merely a newspaper column, and the person mentioned herein isn't you.

As for summer? — it'll come round again.



You Tell Us:

Do you feel any of the orientation activities sponsored by the DSA have helped you to adjust to college life?



Sure, the pub.
Stu Schneider
 First-year marketing



I'm looking forward to the pub and drinking lots of beer!
Dave Berry
 First-year management studies



Hopefully it will be as good as Grand Bend.
Sandra Leinweber
 First-year marketing



It has helped me to create and to achieve a good outlook on college.
Adele Freitas
 First-year graphics



It helped me find my way around.
Janine Wareing
 General Arts and Science



Yes, they're good, but they're nothing like Frosh Week.
Angelis Moszynski
 First-year broadcasting

Random thoughts while waiting for a flashing green light



By Andy
 Schoenhofer

I've just begun my two-month term as editor of this newspaper and I want to get something off my chest before all of you readers get on my back.

I can't change the world, and there are things about which we humans can't do anything. Therefore, don't expect this paper to solve all your problems.

For example: I know readers are asking themselves why the builders of the new road into the Doon campus didn't start building it a few weeks earlier so it would be ready for the thousands of cars that drive here every day? Surely they know what our schedule is

by now, school has started the day after Labor Day for quite a while.

The builder isn't the problem, though. Why didn't someone foresee the traffic that would spring up if the college was located so far away from the city? Sure, it'll be inside Kitchener in a few years — but what about those intervening years? Don't we pay taxes to engineers and planners for something?

But asking these questions is a worthless pursuit; rationalizations and glib answers are at the tips of everyone's tongues.

If the road builder can't read a calendar too well or had some trouble estimating the time it would take to build the road, and someone wants to hang him for that, I won't join in.

Because whose fault is it that almost every car on its way in here has only one person in it?

Who drives those cars, polluting the air, using huge amounts of energy to build them and making them tough to throw out?

Which bus route is it that, the few times I've taken it, has three people on it for its whole trip?

You, Dear Reader (and me — I can't weasel out of this either), are the culprits. Ultimately, everything has to change with one person making one decision: "I will use both sides of this piece of paper. I will carry the bottle of Coke out of the store to my bicycle without a plastic bag."

As you can see, one decision is followed by another and soon you're living with the planet, not just on it.

So, it's not the paper's job to change the world, it's your job.

Our job is to let other people know they're not alone in the way they think. They share an opinion with you. Simple.

This leads to the question of why newspapers exist in the first place. My answer is that there are a lot of people who care about other people in the world and they

want you to know that they do.

If a substance will hurt you, there's a journalist telling you about it. If a hurricane is coming close to some far-off country, the journalist tells you about it so you can feel like a citizen of the world, and therefore less alone.

If some politician comes up with something baffling — say, a new tax — there's the journalist trying to make sense of it for you.

Of course, we're not all like that. Stories about people seeing Elvis in a supermarket in Elmira or UFO travellers fathering space babies isn't what I'm talking about.

But if we're not all caring and helpful, we should be. Journalists have this tremendous platform we can use to say anything we want and, sometimes unfortunately, anything is exactly what comes out of our typewriters.

Badly, incompetently, half-way, or even brilliantly, we do it anyway.

It's the one decision we have made.

Carol Trotter finds beekeeping a satisfying, interesting hobby

By Alan Elliott

With her husband, Bob, allergic to bee venom, Carol Trotter's hobby as a beekeeper has necessitated "getting smarter with how we work the bees."

Trotter, a teacher of English as a second language at the Waterloo campus, said they have an emergency kit for those unexpected stings.

Without treatment, a hypersensitive person's throat will swell shut. But she said her husband hasn't been stung once this year, even though he regularly helps her with the beekeeping duties.

On one occasion, attired in the usual protective white coveralls and veil, he turned to her as she knelt by a hive and said, "Carol, I think I can feel a bee inside my pants."

Trotter looked up and saw an eight-inch tear in the crotch of the bee suit — it had recently been used by a friend, taller than Bob, who had apparently split a seam — and a swarm of bees crawling inside.

"So he walked away like a cowboy who'd just gotten off a horse and shook — he didn't get stung."

The Trotters bought the property on the northern outskirts of Waterloo seven years ago, intending some kind of hobby farm to put the 25 acres to use.

"I knew I couldn't do cows and pigs," Trotter said. "Bees seemed to be something that would be fun."

They didn't know then of Bob's bee-venom allergy. But Trotter said, with precautions, there is no need to worry and that many people are misinformed about the nature of bees, often blaming them for hornet and wasp stings.

"The old-style beekeepers you see pictures of, working without any veils or covering of any kind, really picked their weather."

But despite a predictable nature that makes them easy to work with, many people have difficulty picturing bees' social order and mating characteristics, Trotter said.

Breeding takes place with the queen and male in flight.

"The drones fly and actually explode their abdomens into her vagina." After serving his one purpose in life, the drone dies.

Drones are "big furry guys, they've got great big eyes and have no method of feeding themselves." The (female) foragers feed them.

A queen, fertilized by possibly 10 or more drones, can lay eggs, one at a time, for up to four years and can choose to lay an egg that will produce a male or one that will produce a female.

A hive will house few males compared to the female, or worker, population, and in the fall the workers throw the drones out to die.

Most visitors prefer to maintain a healthy distance from the hives — nestled into the edge of a wooded area, surrounded by wild raspberries, goldenrod, a wildflower meadow and a cat-tailed pond. But one elderly man, who once kept bees in Poland, comes around every two weeks, and honey is the last thing on his mind.

Trotter said he holds bees to his arthritic knees then to his nose, which is cancerous, until they sting. She said before he started visiting, she'd heard claims that bee stings relieve arthritis but not that they may help cure cancer.

With 12 hives, Trotter said she produces 700-900 pounds of honey each season and has no trouble selling what her family doesn't use. Friends and co-workers are eager to buy what they consider a pure, natural product.

She calls it a satisfying and interesting hobby that requires a small initial investment (a queen and a pound of bees cost \$10) and can generate enough money to cover expenses.



Carol Trotter smokes her bees to calm them.

Liaison Services' booth at Market Square entices students

By Alan Elliott

The college hit the mall Aug. 21-26 and helped a lucky person walk away \$300 richer.

A display at Market Square in downtown Kitchener was part of the college's effort to "put more emphasis into personal contacts, and public exposure," said Jennifer Leith, manager of liaison services at the Doon campus, and featured a draw for a \$300 "scholarship."

Leith said the prize, won by David Rode, 31, of Kitchener, was not a scholarship in the usual sense of the word, but can be used for books or other supplies if the winner chooses to attend the college.

Leith said liaison services provided the display at the mall's invitation as part of an annual Market Square event called Student Style, which highlights displays by educational institutions.

Staff and faculty members were on hand to answer questions from the public and provide information in addition to the literature available. Leith said they counted 10 requests about specific programs, but the greatest response was from those interested in continuing education — not to mention the 75 who filled out ballots to enter the draw.

The display was the second at Market Square in three months, a part of what Leith calls the college's push for "image enhancement." In June, Leith said, the college set up a more active display with electronic gadgets, including a robot.

At the June display, Leith said, people filled out applications right

in the mall for programs starting in September. She said the August display was intended to publicize courses with a continuing intake and courses not yet filled for September.

Similar displays are mounted throughout the year in malls, at trade shows, home shows and high schools. Leith said college material will be displayed at the Ontario School Counsellors Association convention in November and at the CAD/CAM (computer-aided design and manufacture) conference next summer, both in Toronto.

Leith said that, because the colleges are a relatively new educational system (about 20 years old in Ontario), the parents of current post-secondary students are unfamiliar with them and so colleges benefit less from "parental push" than the longer-standing universities.

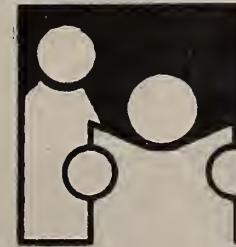
Leith said the number-one objective on the liaison activity plan is to increase first-year enrolment in technical programs, which tends to remain below capacity, unlike enrolment in arts and business.

She said although most people understand what a nurse or a police officer does, "it's not so readily understandable for the average person what a mechanical engineer does."

She said because people working in technology aren't as often in the public's view as white collar workers, portraying characters on television shows or holding public office, the public tends to see those

roles with a "jaundiced eye."

The role of public displays and other liaison services activities is to turn those notions around, Leith said.



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Local artist celebrated at Homer Watson Gallery

By Alan Elliott

The Homer Watson House and Gallery, within a 20-minute walk of the Doon campus at 1754 Old Mill Rd., features points of interest for those keen on local history, art or architecture.

Homer Watson was born in Doon and died here. His life in the small village in a house overlooking the Grand River celebrated nature, the Canadian pioneer and the mottled green farm landscape. Life in a rural community etched its way into his artist's vision and provided subjects for many of his 1200 canvases. Although he travelled, worked and was well-known in major North American centres and in Europe, he chose Doon village life and walks in nature (working from memory rather than sketches) as his major source of inspiration.

Born in 1855, Watson began painting while in his teens, without any formal instruction. At the age of 18, he painted the first of his major works, *The Pioneer Mill*, which he sold for \$300 several years later to Lord Lorne, the governor general of Canada and son-in-law of Queen Victoria. Lorne wanted it for the Queen's Royal Collection.

Watson painted in 1900 what many consider his masterpiece, *The Flood Gate* (featured in reproduction at the house), which won the bronze medal at the Louisiana Purchase Exhibition in St. Louis in 1904.

In 1883, a young man with a well-established career, Watson bought the house, an 1835 Scottish-Gothic style with lofty peaks and dormers. In 1906, he built a gallery on to the house, an indication of his commitment to maintaining residence in Doon.

One notable feature of the house is the frieze (a band of decoration painted on the wall just below the ceiling) painted by Watson in 1894. It is made up of a number of paintings that hearken to the styles of painters admired by Watson.

The frieze has deteriorated over the years and, beginning in December, along with other major restorations to the house partly funded by a grant from the ministry of culture and communications, workers will begin stabilizing the materials to prevent further damage, and cleaning and repairing the pictures.

Mary Lou Wagner, administrator of the house and gallery, said of the damage to the frieze, "We had a problem with a leaking roof at one time and water got in behind (the walls). Plus the problem that he painted directly on to plaster."

Wagner said in some areas, whole chunks of plaster fell out.

The restoration process will also include new lighting in the exhibition rooms and major repairs in the basement.

A Homer Watson exhibition is featured every year in the gallery. Wagner said they hope to have

continuous rotations of Watson's paintings in the museum area after the restorations are complete. The borrowing of paintings from national galleries requires standards concerning the amount of light and humidity in the area where the borrower plans to exhibit them.

For now, visitors can get a sense of Watson's work from the one original oil, several restrikes of prints from the original copper plates and the reproductions, all hanging in the museum section, which is referred to as the house as opposed to the gallery, where exhibitions by contemporary artists are featured.

Museum pieces include his original pallet, easel, brushes and paintbox, period furniture and photos of Watson and local people of his time.

During the years of the First World War, Watson was commissioned to paint scenes commemorating Canadian participation, but it is the landscapes, the pioneer life and rustic scenes that art historians remember him for. They saw in him a chronicler of the Canadian experience, a painter of Canada's landscape rather than an imitator of European style.

Exhibitions continue at the gallery until December 17 and include the current showing of textile and fibre works and oil pastel drawings by Cambridge artist Heather Franklin. Beginning October 5, the gallery will feature paintings by Ojibway artist Arthur Shilling and

prize-winning photographs from the Kitchener-Waterloo Record. From November 16 until the

seasonal closing on December 17, paintings by Wadie Mahdy and antique toys will be exhibited.



Photo by Alan Elliott/Spoke

The Homer Watson Gallery features exhibition every year.

Tradition of fine arts observed at Open Door workshop

By Alan Elliott

Homer Watson's statement in a 1933 letter that "art, after all, is for the people, and not for the few," could serve as a motto for the tradition of arts and crafts instruction that continues today at the Homer Watson House and Gallery.

Ron MacDonald, an art teacher at Open Door (adult education) in Cambridge and Waterloo, said he feels area residents are fortunate to have access to such facilities: "It's all supplied right here."

MacDonald taught basic drawing for beginners, a four-session course that began in July, in the cement-block structure attached several decades ago to the 154-year-old house.

The gallery's administration sponsors about 15 to 20 courses a year, mostly in the visual arts. Offerings this season have included Japanese brush painting, oil painting, watercolor and pastel portraits.

MacDonald said the classes have helped his students learn how to understand perspective and to draw the human face and body areas.

"These four weeks will provide them with just enough to get them on the way," he said.

Students interested in media other than pen and pencil drawings can take a more advanced course later.

Courses remaining through to the end of October are life drawing, silkscreen for beginners, tapestry frameloop weaving, cartooning, banner making and Chinese brush painting.

The workshops carry on the tradition of the earlier Doon School of Fine Arts, based here until its demise in 1975. In 1948,

the administrator of the Homer Watson estate, Ross Hamilton, bought the property and established the school. From 1963 to 1965 it was affiliated with the University of Waterloo and offered instruction in painting, sculpture, ballet, creative writing, children's art and children's drama.

times, the house was bought by the city of Kitchener in 1981. The Homer Watson House Foundation, a charitable organization, was established to maintain it. The house

is also designated a heritage landmark.

But the art workshops will soon have a new, nearby home.

The structure where they are now held looks like a garage — squat, a squalid grey hangnail attached to the lofty gothic-style house. As part of a comprehensive restoration project to be started in December, according to Mary Lou Wagner, the administrator, the addition will be torn down and the workshops moved into the basement of the house, also to be

renovated.

MacDonald said he feels the building serves the academic side of the operation well and is sorry to see it go. He finds the basement too small for art classes.

But architecture purists would approve of the plans. So would those budding artists who seek out

Homer Watson's haunts for instruction, inspiration or the visual stimulation so essential to the artist.

As MacDonald said of his students, "They see their environment all over again."

Call 748-4377 for information on the gallery and workshops.



Photo by Alan Elliott/Spoke
Art student Kristin Burke sketches at the Watson Gallery.

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Recreation centre near anniversary

By Mike Matthews

The Kenneth E. Hunter Recreation Centre at Conestoga College's Doon campus will mark ten years of operation, September, 1990, and the facility has only begun to realize its potential.

Originally proposed to incoming college president Kenneth Hunter by the college's student government in 1974, Hunter promised the students would have their athletic facility within five years.

The Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities contributed \$3.9 million. \$250,000 was raised locally through industry, business and private sector donations in combination with student fundraising efforts, matched by a Wintario grant. The college ancillary fund contributed \$100,000. Wintario contributed an additional \$200,000 to ensure the facility would be accessible for handicapped persons.

Consisting of nearly 1,600 square metres of gymnasium floor space when completed in 1980, the facility included a varsity basketball court, two intramural basketball courts, three volleyball courts, eight badminton courts and room for two indoor tennis courts. It also has a carpeted weight-training room and a 26-lap-per-mile rubberized oval track. All this as well as the ice surface, makes the complex an efficient, multi-purpose facility.

In 1982, two North American-style squash courts were added. They were part of the initial proposal, but were deleted at that time as a cost-saving measure.

On September 5, 1980, Ontario Premier William Davis was among the dignitaries on hand to officially open the \$4.7 million Conestoga Centre complex.

In its first two years of operation, the Conestoga Centre generated a total of \$200,000 in revenue — a figure that has grown in the last seven years to \$500,000 annually.

In 1985, Conestoga's Board of Governors approved a name change for the facility to Conestoga College Recreation Centre. The name change was significant in that the recreation centre designation now made the facility eligible to receive a wider variety of government grants. Permission was also granted for the facility's proper name to be erected on a sign outside the building for the first

time.

In 1987, college president Kenneth Hunter retired, and the Board of Governors decided to change the name again, this time in honor of the retiring president.

Before the recreation centre was completed in 1980, the college rented facilities for a variety of events; including its varsity athletic programs, intramurals, convocation, large meetings, workshops and student orientation. The recreation centre now handles all these events and many more in a given calendar year.

Along with the usual load of varsity athletics, intramural sports, tournaments and casual student usage, the recreation centre is also used for business administration exams, various educational programs, recreation leadership programs, orientation, convocation (twice), faculty training days, student concerts and numerous community-related events.

There are also 350 community memberships to use the facilities, group rentals for special events, horse and dog shows, conferences, concerts, large industry Christmas parties and general rentals of both the ice rink and the gymnasium.

In 1985, recreation centre staff worked with Sport Canada to have the recreation centre declared a national training centre for pairs figure skating.

In 1987, Conestoga College entered into a co-operative agreement with Kitchener's department of parks and recreation to further develop the exterior of the recreation centre. The college provided the land, while the city developed three baseball diamonds and a combination soccer-football pitch.

The student athletic fee for Doon campus is \$40 a year, used for the upkeep and on-going operation of the facility.

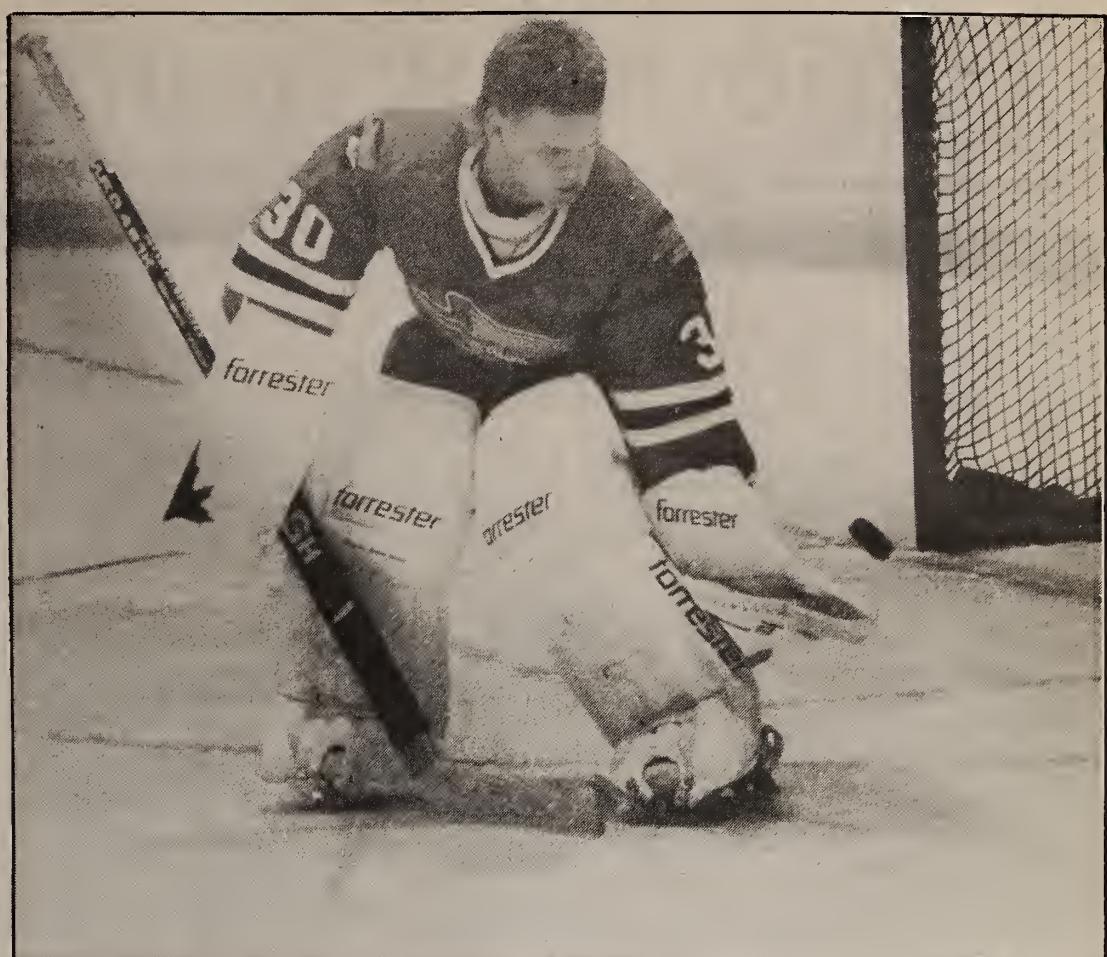


Photo by Rick Webster/Spoke

Blair Molto shows how to cut down the shooter's angle and keep the net empty.

Hockey school teaches "finer points of game"

By Mike Matthews

Northern Hockey School made use of the recreation centre from Aug. 28 to Sept. 1 to teach young hockey players some of the finer points of the game. In addition to the regular on-ice and dry-land sessions conducted for forwards and defencemen, the instructors also ran a goaltending school.

The 10 goalies spent three hours a day getting on-ice instruction and away from the ice stretched and exercised to improve their balance and eye-hand co-ordination.

While on the ice, the instructors put the goalies through a variety of drills to improve their skating ability, reflexes and positioning in the net.

Portions of the goalies' on-ice afternoon sessions were videotaped, and afterward the instructors used the tapes to show the goalies how to better play a particular shot or angle.

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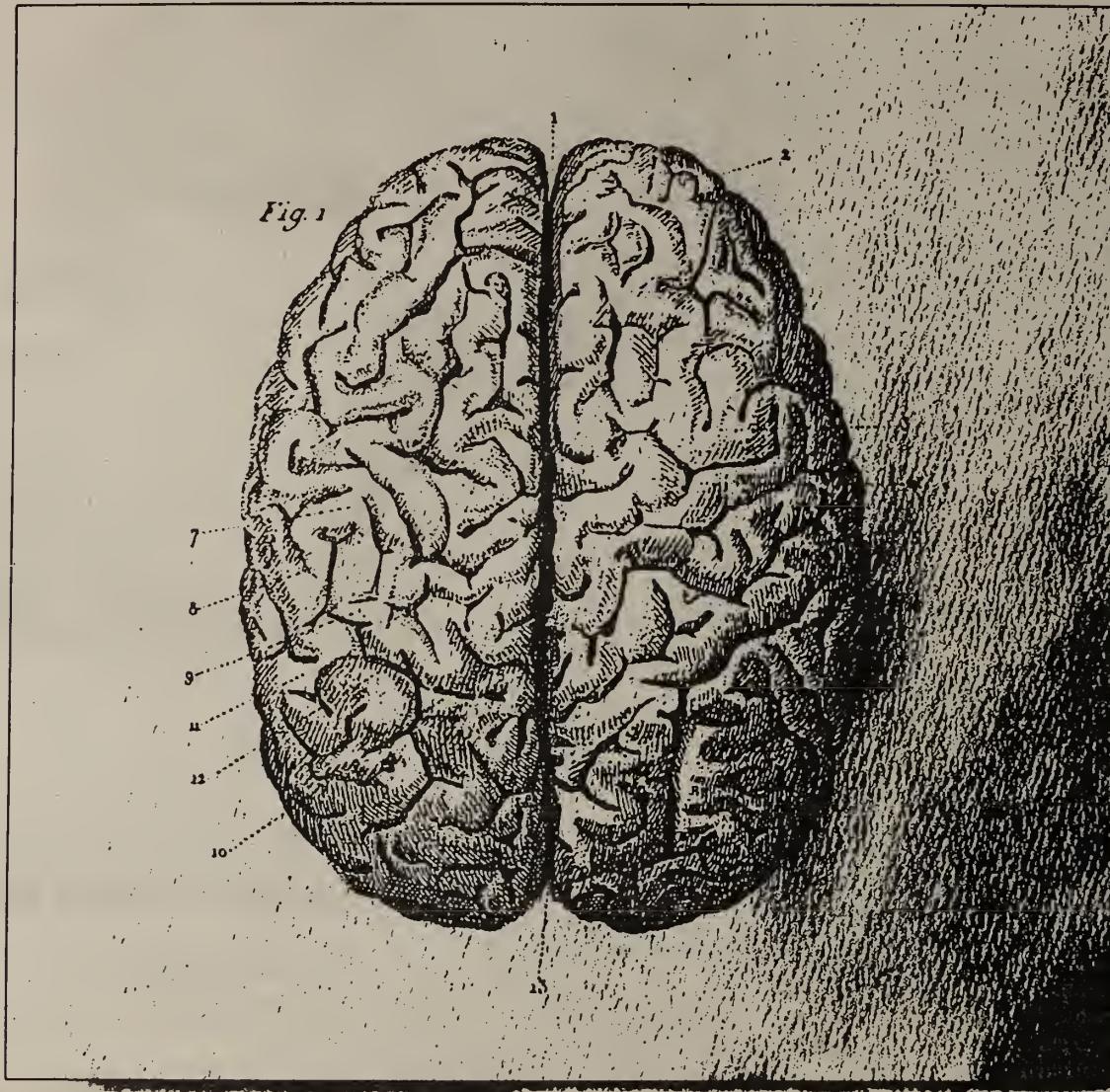
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